

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Power to the People

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

(2012 AS AMENDED)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble			
Chapter 1	-	name of Party	- 3
		Motto and slogan	- 3
		Registered office of the Party	4
		Character and Ethics	- 4
		Aims and Objectives	- 5
Chapter 2	-	membership	- 8
Part 1	-	Admission into membership	8
Chapter 3	-	Code of conduct	- 12
Part II	-	Obligation to Party members	14
Chapter 4	-	Party Structure	- 14
Part II	-	Organs of the Party	- 15
Part III	-	Ward Executive Committee	- 16
Part IV	-	Local Govt. Area Executive Com.	20
Part V	-	Senatorial Level	- 29
Part VI	-	State level	- 33
Part VII	-	Zonal Level	-
	-	Zonal Working Committee	- 47
Part VIII	-	National Level	-
	-	National Working Committee	53
Part IX	-	Board of Trustees	- 62
Part X	-	National Convention	- 67
Chapter 5	-	Powers and functions of National officers	- 72
Chapter 6	-	Resignation or removal of national Officers	- 81
Chapter VII	-	Mode of Election of officers of the Party	- 84
Chapter VIII	-	Nomination of Candidates for election to public offices	- 85
Chapter IX	-	Funding	- 88
	-	Bank Account	- 93
	-	Audit of Party Accounts	- 94
Chapter X	-	Disciplinary Procedure	- 95
	-	Offences and Sanctions	- 96

Chapter XI	-	Peoples Democratic Institute		100
Chapter XII	-	Miscellaneous Provisions		
	-	Contractual Liability		
	-	Amendment	-	101
Schedule I	-	Oath of Allegiance	-	102
Schedule II	-	Oath of Office	-	104
Schedule III	-	Proceeds of Meetings	-	105
Schedule IV	-	Staff Rules	-	105
		Declaration	-	108

CONSTITUTION OF

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

PREAMBLE

1. ***RECOGNIZING*** that many years of military dictatorship in Nigeria resulted in the gross erosion of fundamental human rights and rule of law; ***conscious*** of need to raise the nation to the highest level of moral and intellectual dignity, ***determined*** to evolve the means of reconciling and uniting our various peoples and rekindling the spirit of brotherhood, ***mindfull*** of the necessity of confronting and remedying the social decay that exists in the moral, social and political condition of the country; and ***arousing*** themselves to a desired state of consciousness to build a prosperous and lasting democracy;

2. the leaders of like-minded political associations in the country, prompted by a sense of duty to the nation, assembled in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja on the 28th Day of July, 1998 and resolved:

a) To bring together all patriotic and like-minded Nigerians into a single formidable political party, capable of organizing and making productive the labour and energy of the people;

b) To work together under the umbrella of the party for the speedy restoration of democracy, the achievement of national reconciliation, economic and social reconstruction and respect for human rights and the rule of law;

c) To create socio-political conditions conducive to national peace and unity by ensuring fair and equitable distribution of resources and opportunities,

d) To conform with the principles of power shift and power sharing by rotating key political offices amongst the diverse peoples of our country;

e) To devolve powers equitably between the Federal, State, and Local Governments in the spirit of federalism;

f) To establish under the law and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, a moral social order which will result in the spiritual regeneration of the nation;

g) To defend the sanctity of democracy through the firm enforcement of a strict code of conduct among the members of the party and political office holders; and

h) To mobilize like-minded Nigerians under the leadership of the party to build a nation responsive to the aspirations of its people, able to satisfy the just hopes and aspirations of the black people of the world and to gain the confidence of the nations.

NOW THEREFORE, WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY, for the purpose of effective administration and the promotion of the ideals and objectives of our party *HEREBY ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES* the following Constitution-

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section

NAME OF THE PARTY

1. The name of the Party shall be PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY ("hereinafter in this Constitution referred as "The Party" and with the abbreviation "PDP")

SUPREMACY OF THE PARTY CONSTITUTION

2. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, this Constitution shall be supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all members and organs of the party.

MOTTO AND SLOGAN

3. The motto of the Party shall be **"JUSTICE, UNITY AND PROGRESS"** and the slogan of the party shall be **"PDP - POWER TO THE PEOPLE"**, demonstrated by a raised and clenched right fist.

FLAG AND EMBLEM





4. The flag of the party shall be a horizontal tricolour comprising from top to bottom equal stripes of GREEN, WHITE AND RED, and the emblem of the party shall be an umbrella in the Party colour.

REGISTERED OFFICE

5. The registered head office of the Party shall be in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and there shall be such other branch offices as the party may, from time to time, approve.

THE CHARACTER AND ETHICS

6.(1) The party shall be democratic organization and shall pursue its objectives without regard to race, creed or ethnic affiliation,

(2) The policies and programmes of the party shall be determined by its membership and the leadership of the party shall be accountable to the membership.

(3) The party shall contest all elections in Nigeria and shall, for that purpose draw its support from all sections of the society.

(4) The party, while striving for maximum unity of purpose shall respect the linguistic, cultural and religious diversity of its members.

(5) The party shall support the emancipation and participation of women by encouraging their representation at all levels.

(6) The party shall respect freedom of expression and free exchange of ideas and information without undermining the authority and integrity of the party.

(7) In nomination for party offices at least 35% shall be allocated to women.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.(1) The Party shall have a manifesto, which, Subject to the provisions of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the manifesto of the party shall be implemented by all organs of the party and governments elected under its platform.

2) The Party shall strive to:

a) Promote sustainable development through the provision of sound education, basic health care, food security, rapid industrial growth, adequate housing, full employment and the improvement of infrastructure and basic services;

b) Promote federalism and an equitable revenue sharing formula;

c) Promote the security of life, and property, and enhance family values;

d) Promote self-respect, self-reliance and human dignity;

e) Uphold the integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as one united indivisible political entity;

f) Promote national integration and the peaceful co-existence of the diverse communities of our country;

g) Promote an egalitarian society founded on freedom, equality and justice.

h) Uphold the independence of the judiciary and the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

i) Promote learning and research in science and technology and the arts;

j) Assist in the just resolution of local and international disputes;

k) Support the struggle for the rights of children and the physically challenged; and

I) Advance the political, social, educational and economic interests of its members and act as the channel of communication between them, the government and other political parties or associations.

3) The Party shall pursue these objectives by:

(a) Ensuring that the programmes of the Party, as contained in its manifesto, conform with the fundamental objectives and directive principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

(b) Promoting mutual respect for and understanding of the religious and cultural diversity of Nigeria.

(c) Adhering to the policy of the rotation and zoning of party and public elective offices in pursuance of the principle of equity, justice and fairness;

(d) Striving towards African unity and fostering greater understanding and cohesion among all peoples of African descent;

(e) Co-operating with African and other nationalist movements and organizations working for the eradication of imperialism, neo-colonialism and racism;

(f) Co-operating with member nations in promoting the aims of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU), the Commonwealth of Nations, the United Nations Organizations (UNO) and other international and regional groups; and

(g) Undertaking such other activities as, in the opinion of the Party, may promote the attainment of the stated aims and objectives of the Party.

CHAPTER II

PART I

MEMBERSHIP

ADMISSION INTO MEMBERSHIP

8.(1) Membership of the Party shall be open to all Nigerians who are not below the age of 18 years, and who undertake to abide by the constitution of the party.

(2) A register of members shall be kept at the Ward level of the party and the register shall not be removed from the ward secretariat.

(3) The membership register maintained at the ward shall be authenticated by being signed by the ward chairman and the ward secretary.

(4) A prospective member shall .

(a) Register at his or her Ward of origin or where he or she ordinarily resides or carries on business; and

(b) Pay the prescribed registration and other fees before admission into the party.

(5) Application for membership shall be considered by the Ward Executive Committee, which shall have power to accept or reject any application.

Provided that any rejection shall be subject to review by the next higher organ of the party.

(6) A membership card shall be issued to a registered member of the party, which shall bear the photograph of the member.

(7) The Membership cards shall be produced by the National Headquarters and authenticated by the National Chairman and National Secretary.

PROCEDURE FOR REJOINING

(8) A person who desire to rejoin the party after leaving it shall,

(a) Apply to his Ward Secretary for re-admission; and

(b) Unless, given waiver by the National Working Committee, be placed on probation for a period of not less than a year.

(9) Subject to the provision of Section 8(b), a member on probation shall have the right to attend all meetings of the party, but shall not be entitled to vote at such meetings, nor shall he be eligible to contest for elective office on the platform of the party.

(10) Members shall pay their monthly subscription fees at the ward level, which must be reflected on their membership cards, and where a member consistently fails to pay his subscription fees for six months, such membership will be deemed to have lapsed.

(11) The party membership register shall be computerized to ensure control and to avoid fraud, and all ward registers shall be closed one month to congresses.

(12) Procedure and processes of keeping membership records shall be standardized such that there is uniform way of keeping and preserving records at all levels of the Party.

(13) Party members should ensure that they verify their names before the closure of ward registers; and authentication or recertification by the ward chairmen and secretaries should take place before nomination processes begin.

(14) The membership cards and registers shall be classified as party security documents.

LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

(15) Without prejudice to the provision of section 8(16) of this constitution, any member who fails to renew his membership by payment of the annual subscription fees within 6 months after due date shall cease to enjoy the rights and privileges of membership and if in default for upward of 12 months shall cease to be a member of the party.

(16) Any member who loses his membership on account of failure to pay his dues or to meet any other financial obligations shall resume membership only on the payment of all outstanding dues and penalties.

(17) Any party member who loses his membership for reasons other than nonpayment of annual subscription may be readmitted on the recommendation of his ward executive committee, through the local government area executive committee, to the state chapter of the party, and ultimately made to the national working committee, subject to ratification by the national executive committee.

STATUS OF RETURNEE MEMBERS

(18) A person who has earlier decamped from the party but later decides to return to the party shall loss the seniority and privileges conferred on him by his previous status.

PART II

FOREIGN CHAPTER

9 (1) Subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee, members of the party who reside in countries having diplomatic relations with Nigeria, not being less than fifty in number, may establish country chapters of the party in their places of residence, but shall only be eligible to enjoy all the rights of membership, if duly registered in their respective wards in Nigeria and have fulfilled all other obligations.

(2) For the purpose of coordinating the activities of the Foreign Chapters, there shall be established in the office of the National Secretary, a Co-ordinator of Foreign Chapters of the Party.

CHAPTER III

PART I

CODE OF CONDUCT

10.1 A party member shall-

(a) Belong to and take active part in the activities of his ward;

(b) Take all necessary steps to understand, propagate and execute the aims and objectives of the party;

(c) Endeavour to acquaint himself with the social, cultural, political and economic problems of the country;

(d) Combat any propaganda detrimental to the party and defend the policies and programmes of the party;

(e) Oppose ethnicity, religious and political intolerance or any other form of discrimination.

(f) Observe discipline, behave honestly and carry out loyally all decisions of the majority and decisions of higher organs of the party;

(g) Refrain from publishing or distributing to the public, any article which purports to be the view of any faction or tendency within the party without due authorization;

(h) Ensure that he is registered as a voter in the constituency where he resides;

(i) Pay such fees, levies and dues as may be prescribed from time to time by the National Convention or by any other organ of the party authorized to do so;

(j) Subject to the provision of this constitution, be eligible to vote and be voted for at party meetings or elections; and

(k) Be loyal to the party and not do anything that is inconsistent with this constitution.

(2) No member of the party at any level shall divulge the proceedings and decisions of the party unless expressly authorized.

(3) All public officers elected or appointed on the platform of the party shall be guided by the manifesto, rules and decisions of the party.

(4) No member of the party shall bring to public attention disagreements and conflicts within the party unless expressly authorized to do so.

(5) No member of the party shall publicly make critical comments about the policies of any government elected on the platform of the party.

(6) No member of the party shall align with other parties or groups to undermine the party or any of its elected governments.

(7) No member of the party shall engage in violent conduct or acts capable of inciting violence at any of its gatherings.

PART II

Obligations of the Party to members

(1) The party shall create opportunities for members to serve; and shall adopt measures that encourage volunteer services;

(2)The party shall put in place deliberate measures aimed at strengthening the aspirations of members through services; and shall encourage regular gathering and social activities aimed at developing familiar bonds among members.

CHAPTER IV

PARTY STRUCTURE

PART I

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

12.1 The party shall be organized and administered at the following levels:

(a) Ward

(b) Local Government Area (LGA);

(c) Senatorial District;

(d) State;

(e) Zonal, and

(f) National

2 For the purpose of elections, there shall be informal units for mobilization of voters, such as:

(a) The State House of Assembly Constituency

(b) The Federal Constituency; and

(c) The Senatorial Constituency

(3) There shall be a Party secretariat at all levels of the Party.

(4) For the purpose of the organization of the party, the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja shall be deemed to be a State.

PART II

ORGANS OF THE PARTY

(1) The organs of the party shall consist of the following:

(a) The Ward Executive Committee

(b) The Ward Congress

(c) The Local Government Executive Committee

(d) The Local Government Area Congress

(e) The Senatorial District Working Committee

(f) The Senatorial Caucus

(g) The State Working Committee

(h) The State Caucus

(i) The State Executive Committee

(j) The State Congress

(k) The Zonal Working Committee

(l) The Zonal Executive Committee

(m) The Zonal Congress

(n) The National Working Committee

(o) The National Caucus

(p) The National Board of Trustees

(q) The National Executive Committee

(r) The National Convention.

(s) The National Executive Committee

(t) The National Convention

PART III

WARD LEVEL

WARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

14 (1) There shall be a Ward Executive Committee which shall consist of:

(a) The Chairman

(b) The Deputy Chairman

(c) The elected Chairman of the Local Government Council, the elected Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Council and the elected Councillor of the Ward who are members of the party.

(d) The Secretary

(e) The Assistant Secretary

(f) The Treasurer

(g) the Financial Secretary

(h) The Organizing Secretary

(i) The Publicity Secretary

(j) The Woman Leader

(k) The Youth Leader

(l) Five other members elected at the Ward Congress, two of whom shall be women.

(m) The members of National, Zonal, State and Local Government Executive Committees of the party from the Ward.

(n) The members of the National Board of Trustees from the Ward.

(o) The members of the National and State Assemblies from the ward, who are members of the party.

(p) The Ward Legal Adviser, who shall be a legal practitioner

(q) The Ward Auditor; and

(r) Political office holders from the Ward, who are members of the Party, that is:

(i.) The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or

(ii.) The Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and

(iii.) State Governor or Deputy Governor; and

(s) Former members of the National and State Executive Committees, who are still members of the party.

(2) **FUNCTIONS**

The function of the Ward Executive Committee shall be-

(a) administration of the Party at the ward level;

(b) raising funds for the party;

(c) membership drive for the party;

(d) drawing up strategies for political campaigns;

(e) mobilizing voters for the party;

(f) Implement the decisions of the Ward Congress and other organs of the party;

(g) Receiving the ward auditor's report; and

(h) Perform such other functions as may be in the interest of the Party, and as may, from time to time, be assigned to it by higher organs of the party.

MEETINGS

(3) The Ward Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month.

(4) Meetings of the Ward Executive Committee shall be summoned by the Ward Chairman

(5) An extra-ordinary meeting of the Ward Executive Committee shall be held if requested by at least two-third of the members of the Ward Executive committee or if requested by one-third of the registered members of the Ward and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.

(6) The quorum at Ward Executive Committee meeting shall be one-third (1/3) of its membership and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

WARD CONGRESS

Establishment and Composition

15. (1) There shall be a Ward Congress which shall consist of all elected, political office holders and registered members of the party.

Functions

(2) The Functions of the Ward Congress shall be to-

(a) Receive reports of officers of the Ward

(b) Receive Auditors reports

(c) Approve the budget of the Ward

(d) Elect members of the Ward Executive Committee

(e) Elect Ward delegates to the Party Congress

(f) Conduct primaries for the Ward elections

(g) Carry out such other functions as may be in the interest of the party

Meetings

(3) The Ward Congress shall be summoned by the Chairman of the Ward Executive committee at least once a year.

(4) The quorum of the Ward Congress shall be one-third of the registered members of the Ward and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

(5) A special Ward Congress shall hold if requested by two-third of the members of the Ward Congress and such Congress shall hold within seven days of the request.

PART IV

Local Government Area Executive Committee

Establishment and Composition

16. (1) There shall be a Local Government Executive Committee which shall consist of:

(a) The Chairman

(b) The Deputy Chairman

(c) All Ward Chairmen

(d) The elected local government Council Chairman and Deputy Chairman, who are members of the party.

(e) The Treasurer

(f) The Secretary

(g) The Assistant Secretary

(h) The Financial Secretary

(i) The Publicity Secretary

(j) The Assistant Publicity Secretary

(k) The Organizing Secretary

(l) The Auditor

(m) The Legal Adviser, who shall be a legal practitioner

(n) Five other ex-officio members, at least two of whom shall be women

(o) The Woman Leader

(p) The Youth Leader

(q) The members of the National, Zonal and State Executive committees from the Local Government Area;

(r) The members of the National Board of Trustees from the Local Government Area;

(s) The members of the National and State Assemblies from the Local Government Area who are members of the party;

(t) Political office holders from the Local Government Area, who are members of the party, that is:

(i) The president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or

Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

(ii) State Governor and Deputy Governor; and

(u) former members of the National and State Executive Committees who are still members of the Party

FUNCTIONS

(2) The functions of the Local Government Executive Committee shall be to:

(a) Identify and resolve political, social and economic issues of concern to the Local Government area;

(b) Receive and implement reports from the wards on:

i. membership

ii. Fund raising

iii. Strategies for political campaigns and electoral success, and

iv. Mobilization of voters;

(c) Provide strategies for effective communication between the Wards and the local government area;

(d) Undertake general administration of the Party in the local government area;

(e) Implement the decisions of the Local government Congress and other higher organs of the party; and

(f) Employ all Secretarial staff for the Local Government branch of the party.

Meetings

(3) The Local Government Executive Committee shall meet not less than twice a month.

(4) The meetings shall be summoned by the chairman.

(5) An extra-ordinary meeting of the Local Government Executive Committee shall be held if requested for, by two-third of the members of the Local Government Executive Committee and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.

(6) The quorum of the Local Government Executive Committee shall be one-third of its membership drawn from at least two-third of the Wards in the Local Government Area and a simple majority shall pass a motion.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CAUCUS

Establishment and Composition

17. (1) There shall be a Local Government Area Caucus of the Party in each LGA and Area Council of the Federation which shall consist of the following members-

(a) The Local Government Area Chairman of the Party, who shall be the Chairman;

(b) The Local Government Party Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Woman and Youth Leader;

(c) National, Zonal, State and Senatorial District Executive Members of the Party from Local Government Area;

(d) National Assembly members from Local Government Area;

(e) Members of the BOT from the Local Government Area;

(f) Political office holders from the Local Government Area;

(g) All former National Assembly members from the Senatorial District who are still in the Party;

(h) The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary of the Local Government Area and three supervisory Councilors selected by the Chairman, who are members of the Party; and

(i) Five elders of the party in the Local Government, two of whom shall be women chosen by the caucus.

Functions

(2) The Local Government Area Caucus shall consider urgent and important issues affecting the politics and the economy of the Local Government Area or the State.

Meetings

(3) The LGA Caucus shall meet not less than twice in a year.

(4) The extra-ordinary meeting of the LGA caucus shall be held if requested for by two third of the members and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.

(5) The quorum of the LGA Caucus shall be one-third of the members of the caucus and a simple majority shall pass a motion.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CONGRESSE

Establishment and Composition

18. (1) there shall be a Local Government Area Congress which shall consist of-

(a) The Local Government Chairman of the Party and other members of the Local Government Area Executive Committee;

(b) All the National, Zonal and State Executive Committee members of the Party from the Local Government Area;

(c) The elected Local Government Council Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councilors, who are members of the party;

(d) All members of the National and State House of Assembly from the Local Government Area, who are members of the Party;

(e) Members of the Board of Trustees from the Local Government Area;

(f) All Chairmen and Secretaries of the Ward Executive Committees from the Local Government Area;

(g) three delegates from each Ward of the Local Government Area elected at the Ward Congress, at least one of whom shall be a woman, all of whom shall cease to function at the conclusion of congress for which they were elected;

(h) Elected political office holders from the Local Government Area, who are members of the Party, that is:

(i) The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or

(ii) The Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

(iii) The State Governor; or

(iv) The State Deputy Governor

(v) Former holders of the following offices elected on the platform of the party, who are still members of the party-

(a) President or Vice President.

(b) Governors or Deputy Governors

(c) National Assembly members

(d) Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the State Assembly.

(e) Elected National Executive Committee members.

(f) Local Government Party Chairmen, and Secretaries.

(g) Local Government Council Chairmen and Vice Chairmen

(h) Leaders of Council (Speakers) elected on the platform of the party.

Functions

(2) The functions of the Local Government Area Congress shall be to-

(a) Elect members to the Local Government Executive Committee of the Party;

(b) Elect Local Government Council Chairmanship Candidates of the Party;

(c) Elect Local Government Party delegates to the National Convention;

(d) Approve the budget of the Party at the Local Government level; and

(e) Receive the Local Government Auditor's Report.

Meetings

(3) The meetings of the Local Government Area Congress shall be held not less than once a year.

(4) The Chairman of the Local Government Committee shall summon the Local Government Area Congress.

(5) An extra-ordinary Local Government Area Congress shall hold if requested for by at least two-third of the Chairmen of the Wards constituting the Local Government Area.

(6) The quorum for the Local Government Area Congress shall be one-third of the delegates to the Congress; provided that not less than two-third of all the wards in the Local Government Area are represented, and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

PART V

SENATORIAL DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Establishment and Composition

19. (1) There shall be a Senatorial District Executive Committee which shall consist of:

(a) The State Vice Chairman from the Senatorial District, who shall be the Chairman;

(b) The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Vice President, who are members of the Party from the Senatorial District;

(c) The State Governor or Deputy Governor, who are members of the Party from the Senatorial District;

(d) Members of the Board of Trustees from the Senatorial District;

(e) Members of the National, Zonal and State Executive Committees of the Party from the Senatorial District;

(f) Local Government Party Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers from the Senatorial District;

(g) Elected Local Government Council Chairmen and Vice Chairmen from the Senatorial District, who are members of the Party;

(h) The Senatorial Woman Leader elected by the Senatorial District Executive Committee

(i) The Senatorial Youth Leader elected by the Senatorial District Executive committee;

(j) Five ex-officio members elected by the Senatorial District Executive Committee, at least two of whom shall be women;

(k) Members of the National and State House of Assembly from the Senatorial District, who are members of the Party; and

(l) elected Local Government Council Councillors from the Senatorial District who are members of the Party; and

(m) Former members of the National and State Executive Committee who are still members of the Party.

Functions

(2) The functions of the Senatorial District Executive Committee shall be to:

(a) Identify and resolve social, political and economic issues of concern to the Senatorial District;

(b) Co-ordinate the policies, programmes and operations of the Party within the Senatorial District;

(c) Liaise with the Local Government Areas within the Senatorial district and State headquarters;

(d) Undertake general administration of the party in the Senatorial District and implement the decisions of the Senatorial District Executive Committee;

(e) Prepare the annual budget of the Party in the Senatorial District; and

(f) Receive the Senatorial District Auditor's report.

Meetings

(3) The Senatorial District Executive Committee shall meet monthly and report to the State Working Committee prior to the State Executive Committee meeting.

(4) The Assistant State Secretary from the Senatorial District shall be the Secretary of the Senatorial District Executive Committee, while the Assistant State Organizing Secretary from the Senatorial District shall be the Senatorial District Organizing Secretary.

(5) The quorum of the Senatorial District Executive Committee shall be one-third of the members of the Committee drawn from at least two-third of the Local Government Areas in the Senatorial District and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

SENATORIAL DISTRICT CAUCUS

Establishment and Composition

20. (1) There shall be a Senatorial District Caucus of the Party in each Senatorial district of the Federation, which shall consist of the following members-

(a) Chairman to be appointed by the State Executive Committee;

(b) The State Vice Chairman who shall be the Vice Chairman;

(c) All National, Zonal and State Party Executive Committee members from the Senatorial District;

(d) All members of the National Assembly from the District who are members of the Party;

(e) All House of Assembly members from the Senatorial District who are members of the Party;

(f) All members of the State Executive Council from the Senatorial District who are members of the Party;

(g) Former National Assembly members from the Senatorial District who are still members of the Party;

(h) Political office holders from the Senatorial District who are members of the Party;

(i) Fifteen Elders of the party from the Senatorial District, five of whom shall be women.

Functions

(2) The Senatorial District Caucus shall consider urgent and important political and economic issues affecting the Party, the Senatorial District and the State.

Meetings

(3) The Senatorial District Caucus shall meet not less than three times in a year.

(4) An extra-ordinary meeting of the District Caucus shall be held if requested by two third of the members and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.

(5) the quorum of the District Caucus shall be one third of the members of the Caucus and a simple majority shall pass a motion.

PART VI

STATE WORKING COMMITTEE

Establishment and Composition

21. (1) There shall be a State Working Committee which shall consist of-

(a) The State Chairman

(b) The State Deputy Chairman

(c) The State Secretary

(d) The State Treasurer

(e) The State Legal Adviser who shall be a legal practitioner

(f) The State Financial Secretary

(g) The State Publicity Secretary

(h) State Auditor

(i) The State Organizing Secretary

(j) The State Woman Leader

(k) The State Youth Leader

(l) The Senatorial Chairmen

Functions

(2) The State Working Committee shall:

(a) Undertake the day-to-day administration of the Party in the State and shall be responsible to the State Executive Committee; and

(b) Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the State Executive Committee.

Meetings

(3) The State Working Committee shall meet not less than twice a month at the instance of the Chairman.

(4) An extraordinary meeting of the State Working Committee shall be held if requested by two-third of the members of the Committee, and such a meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.

(5) The quorum of the State Working Committee shall be one-third of the members of the Committee drawn from the three Senatorial Districts in the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

STATE CAUCUS

Establishment and Composition

22. (1) There shall be a State Party Caucus in each state of the Federation which shall consist of the following members:

(a) The State Chairman of the Party, who shall be the Chairman

(b) The State Deputy Chairman

(c) The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the party;

(d) The State Governor and Deputy Governor, who are members of the party

(e) Members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Party from the State; and

(f) The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Party Leader and Party Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip in the State House of Assembly, who are members of the Party;

(g) Members of the National and Zonal Executive Committees of the Party from the State.

(h) The members of the Board of Trustees from the state.

(i) The State Party Secretary and the State Party Treasurer.

(j) The State Party Secretary.

(k) The State Party Legal Adviser.

(l) The State Woman Leader;

(m) The State Party Youth Leader;

(n) Federal Ministers, who are members of the Party from the State;

(o) The Secretary to the Government of the Federation and the Secretary to the Government of the State, who are members of the Party;

(p) Special Advisers to the President of the Federal Republic, who are members of the Party;.

(q) Three Commissioners, who are members of the Party nominated by the Governor, one of whom shall be Attorney General of the State;

(r) Former State Chairmen and State Secretaries who are still members of the Party; and

(s) Former members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Party from the State.

FUNCTIONS

(2) The State Caucus shall meet from time to time, to consider urgent and important issues affecting the Party, the State or the Nation.

Meetings

(3) The State Caucus shall meet not less than once every quarter, at the instance of the Chairman.

(4) An extraordinary meeting of the State Caucus shall be held if request for by two-third of the member of the Caucus and such meeting shall be held within seven days of the request.

(5) The quorum of the State Caucus meeting shall be one-third of the members of the Caucus drawn from the three Senatorial Districts of the State and a simple majority shall pass a any motion.

STATE ELDERS COMMITTEE

Establishment and Composition

23. (1) There shall be the State Elders Committee which shall consist of:

(a) All serving and pas Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who hold or held the respective posts as members of the Party and who are still members of the Party;

(b) All serving and past Governors and Deputy Governors who hold or held the position as members of the Party and who are still members of the Party;

(c) All serving and past members of the National Working Committee who are still members of the Party;

(d) Former State Chairmen of the Party who are still members of the Party;

(e) All serving and former members of the National Assembly who are still members of the Party;

(f) All serving and former Ministers and Special Advisers to the President who are still members of the Party;

(g) Speakers of the State House of Assembly who are still members of the Party;

(h) Serving Chairmen of Federal Boards;

(i) Three elders of the Party from each Senatorial District;

(j) three women from each Senatorial District.

(2) The State Elders Committee shall:

(a) Elect a Chairman and a Secretary from members of the Committee

(b) Without prejudice to the provisions of this constitution ensure that the person to be elected Chairman and Secretary respectively are of proven integrity and have contributed to the growth of the Party in the State;

(c) Ensure that the Chairman, Secretary and all non ex-officio members of the Committee serve a single term of five years; and

(d) Regulate its own proceedings

Functions

(3) The State Elders committee shall, subject to the provision of this constitution:

(a) Ensure high standard of morality in all the activities of the Party in the State;

(b) Mediate in dispute between the Executive and Legislature areas of government in the State, and between members of the Party; and

(c) Undertake such other function and activities as may be referred to it by the State Working Committee or the State Executive Committee.

(4) A member of the State Elders Committee shall:

(a) Be removed from office by a resolution of the State Executive Committee on grounds of infirmity or misconduct;

(b) Resign his membership of the committee by tendering a letter to that effect to the State Chairman of the Party;

(c) And shall lose his membership of the Committee

(i) if he is expelled from the Party; or

(ii) he is removed from the office which made him automatic member of the Committee.

Meetings

(5) The State Elders Committee shall meet at the instance of the Chairman or at the request of half of the members of the Committee or following a resolution of the State Executive Committee requesting for such a meeting.

The quorum of the State Elders Committee meeting shall be two-third of its members.

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Establishment and Composition

24. (1) There shall be a State Executive Committee which shall consist of-

(a) The State Chairman, who shall be the Chairman;

(b) The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, if members of the party;

(c) The State Governor and Deputy Governor, if members of the Party;

(d) Members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Party;

(e) The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Party Leader and Party Whip in the State House of Assembly, if members of the Party;

(f) All National and Zonal Executive Committee members of the party from the state;

(g) Members of the Board of Trustees from the state;

(h) The State Deputy Chairman.

(i) The three State Vice Chairmen.

(j) The State Secretary and the State Assistant Secretary;

(k) The State Treasurer and the Assistant State Treasurer;

(l) The State Organizing Secretary and the State Assistant Organizing Secretary;

(m) The State Financial Secretary and the State Assistant Financial Secretary;

(n) The State Publicity Secretary and the State Assistant Publicity Secretary;

(o) The State Legal Adviser and the State Assistant Legal Adviser, all of whom shall be a legal practitioners;

(p) The State Auditor and the State Assistant Auditor;

(q) The State Woman Leader;

(r) The State Youth Leader;

(s) Two ex-officio members, one of whom shall be a woman, from each of the three Senatorial District elected by the State Congress;

(t) All elected Local Government Council Chairmen and Vice Chairmen who are members of the Party;

(u) All elected Local Government Area Party Chairmen in the State;

(v) All former members of the National and State Executive Committee members who are still in the Party; and

(w) All former members of the National Assembly who are still members of the Party;

Functions

(2) The functions of the State Executive Committee shall be to:-

(a) Identify and resolve political, social and economic issues of concern to the State.

(b) Undertake the general administration of the party in the state and implement the decisions of the State Congress, and the directives of the National Working Committee, the National Executive Committee and the National Convention; and

(c) Prepare the annual budget of the State Branch of the party.

Meetings

(3) The State Executive Committee shall meet at the instance of the Chairman not less than once every quarter.

(4) An extra-ordinary meeting of the State Executive Committee shall be held if requested for, by two-third of the members of the State Executive committee.

(5) The quorum for the State Executive committee shall be one-third of the members of the Committee drawn from the three Senatorial Districts of the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

STATE PARTY CONGRESS

Establishment and Composition

25. (1) There shall be a State Party Congress which shall consist of:

(a) The State Chairman, who shall be the Chairman;

(b) The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the party from the state;

(c) The Governor, Deputy Governor of the State if members of the Party;

(d) The Gubernatorial Candidate of the Party;

(e) The members of the Board of Trustees from the State;

(g) Members of the National and Zonal Executive Committees from the State;

(h) The members of the National Assembly from the State and the members of the State House of Assembly, who are members of the Party;

(i) All elected Local Government Council Chairmen and Vice Chairmen who are members of the Party;

(j) All Local Government Party Secretaries and Treasurers;

(k) All Local Government Women and Youth Leaders;

(l) Three delegates per Ward elected at Ward Congresses at least one of whom shall be a woman, and all of whom shall cease to function after the conclusion of the Congresses for which they were elected;

(m) Former members of State Working Committee who are still members of the Party:

(n) Former Governors and Deputy Governors produced by the Party who are still members of the Party;

(o) Former Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the State House of Assembly produced by the party who are still members of the party;

(p) Former members of the National Assembly who are still members of the Party; and

(q) Former members of the National and State Executive Committee who are still members of the Party.

Functions

(2) The functions of the State Congress shall be to:

(a) Approve the budget of the State Branch of the party.

(b) Elect officers of the State Executive Committee.

(c) Elect governorship candidate of the party.

(d) Receive reports from officers of the party; and

(e) Receive the Auditor's report.

Meetings

(3) The State Congress shall meet once in every two years on a date and at a venue to be determined by the State Executive Committee provided that the State Congress shall be held before the National Convention.

(4) The quorum of the State Congress shall be two-third of the members drawn from the three Senatorial Districts of the State and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

State Assembly Congress

(5) (a) There shall be a State Assembly Congress, which shall be constituted by all delegates to the State Congress from the State Assembly Constituency and other members of the Local Government Executive

Committee from the State Assembly constituency who are not delegates to the State Congress.

(b) The Functions of the State Assembly Congress shall be to elect state House of Assembly candidate of the party.

House of Representatives Congress

(6) (a) There shall be the congress for the House of Representatives, which shall be constituted by all delegates to the State Congress from the Federal Constituency.

(b) The Functions of the House of Representative Congress shall be to elect House of Representative Candidate of the Party.

Senate District Congress

(7) (a) There shall be the Senatorial District Congress which shall be constituted by all delegates to the State Congress from the Senatorial District.

(b) The Functions of the Senatorial District Congress shall be to elect the senatorial candidate of the party.

PART VII

ZONAL LEVEL

ZONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

Establishment and Composition

26. (1) There shall be a Zonal Working Committee which shall consist of:

(a) The National Vice Chairman from the Zone, who shall the Chairman;

(b) The Zonal Secretary;

(c) The Zonal Treasurer;

(d) The Zonal Financial Secretary;

(e) The Zonal Organizing Secretary;

(f) The Zonal Legal Adviser; who shall be a legal practitioner;

(g) The Zonal Publicity Secretary;

(h) The Zonal Auditor;

(i) The Zonal Woman Leader; and

(j) The Zonal Youth Leader

Functions

(2) The Zonal Working Committee shall:

(a) Undertake the administration of the Party at the Zonal level and shall be responsible to the Zonal Executive Committee;

(b) Liaise with the National Secretariat and the State Chapters in the zone;

(c) Prepare and submit reports for the consideration of the Zonal Executive Committee; and

(d) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the National Executive Committee.

Meetings

(3) The Zonal Working Committee shall meet not less than once every fortnight, and its quorum shall be two-third of its membership drawn from at least two-third of the States in the Zone and a simple majority shall pass a motion of the Zonal Working Committee.

Zonal Executive Committee

Establishment and Composition

27. (1) There shall be a Zonal Executive Committee which shall consist of-

(a) The National Vice Chairman from the Zone, who shall be the Chairman;

(b) The President or Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; who are members of the party from the Zone;

(c) Members of the National Assembly from the Zone who are members of the party.

(d) The State Governors and Deputy Governors from the Zone, if members of the party.

(e) Members of the National Executive Committee from the Zone.

(f) Members Board of Trustees from the Zone.

(g) The Speaker, Deputy Speaker Party Leader and Party Whip in the State Houses of Assembly in the Zone, who are members of the party;

(h) The Zonal Secretary, who shall be the Secretary of the Committee;

(i) The State Chairmen, State Secretaries, Treasurers, Women Leaders and Youth Leaders of the party from the Zone;

(j) The Zonal Treasurer;

(k) The Zonal Financial Secretary;

(l) The Zonal Publicity Secretary;

(m) The Zonal Legal Adviser, who shall be a legal practitioner;

(n) The Zonal Women Leader

(o) The Zonal Youth Leader;

(p) The Zonal Organizing Secretary

(q) The Zonal Auditor; and

(r) One ex-officio member from each of the states in the zone.

Functions

(2) The functions of the Zonal Executive Committee shall be to:

(a) Harmonize, co-ordinate and review all activities of the party within the zone;

(b) Establish ad-hoc or standing committees of the party within the zone;

(c) Prepare agenda for and summon meetings of the Zonal Congress;

(d) Prepare reports and budgets for the consideration of the zonal congress; and

(e) Carry out any other functions assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

Meetings

(3) The Zonal Executive Committee shall meet not less than once in every quarter at the instance of the National Vice Chairman provided that two-third of the members of the Committee shall have power to summon an extra-ordinary meeting.

(4) The quorum of the Zonal Executive Committee shall be one-third of the membership of the Committee drawn from at least two-third of the States in the zone and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

ZONAL CONGRESS

Establishment and Composition

28. (1) There shall be a Zonal Congress to consist of the following members from all the states in the Zone-

(a) All members of the Zonal Working Committee,

(b) The Zonal Executive Committee,

(c) The States Executive Committee,

(d) All former members of the Zonal Working Committee who are still members of the Party, and

(e) All delegates to the National Convention from all the States in the zone.

Functions

(2) The functions of the Zonal Congress shall be to-

(a) Approve the budget of the Party in the zone;

(b) Elect officers of the Zonal Working Committee;

(c) Receive the reports of officers of the party in the zone; and

(d) Receive the Zonal Auditor's report

Meetings

(3) The Zonal Congress shall meet every two years at the instance of the National Vice Chairman from the Zone.

(4) An extra-ordinary meeting of the Zonal Congress shall be held if requested for, by at least two-third of the members of the State Executive Committees.

(5) The quorum of the Zonal Congress Meeting shall be two-third of the members of the States in the Zone and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

PART VIII

NATIONAL LEVEL

NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE

Establishment and Composition

29. (1) There shall be a National Working Committee of the party which shall consist of:

(a) The National Chairman

(b) One Deputy National Chairman

(c) The National Secretary

(d) The Deputy National Secretary

(e) The National Treasurer

(f) The National Financial Secretary

(g) The National Organizing Secretary

(h) The National Publicity Secretary

(i) The National Auditor

(j) The National Legal Adviser

(k) The National Woman Leader

(l) The National Youth Leader.

(2) The National Working Committee shall-

(a) Be responsible for the day to day administration of the party and shall be responsible to the National Executive Committee;

(b) In case of emergency, act on behalf of the National Executive Committee subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee; and

(c) Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

Meetings

(3) The National Working Committee shall meet not less than once every fortnight at the instance of the Chairman or at the instance of two-third of the members.

(4) The quorum of the National Working Committee be two-third of the membership drawn from at least two-third of the Zones in the country and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

(5) The National Vice Chairmen shall attend the meetings of the National Working Committee at least once in two months to brief it on the operations of the zones.

NATIONAL CAUCUS

Establishment and Composition

30. (1) There shall be a National Caucus of the party which shall consist of:

(a) The National Chairman, who shall be the Chairman;

(b) The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the party;

(c) The Senate President and Deputy Senate President, the Leader and Deputy Leader, the Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of the Party in the Senate, who are members of the Party;

(d) The Speaker and Deputy Speaker, the Leader and Deputy Leader, the Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of the party in the House of Representatives, who are members of the party;

(e) Six (6) Governors who are members of the Party nominated by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria bearing in mind the need for spread;

(f) The Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Trustees and one member drawn from each of the six geo-political zones;

(g) The Deputy National Chairman;

(h) The National Secretary of the Party, who shall be the Secretary of the National Caucus;

(i) The National Legal Adviser and the National Treasurer;

(j) The National Woman Leader and the National Youth Leader;

(k) Three Federal Ministers, who are members of the party, nominated by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria one of whom shall be the Attorney General of the Federation;

(l) The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, if a member of the party; and

(m) The National Security Adviser, if a member of the party.

Functions

(2) The National Caucus shall-

(a) Harmonize the relationship between the Executive and legislative arms of government and coordinate their activities and those of the party; and

(b) Consider, review and advise on policies and programmes of government.

Meetings

(3) The National Chairman shall, in consultation with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, if a member of the party summon the meeting of the National Caucus, to consider important issues affecting the party and the nation.

(4) An extra-ordinary meeting of the National Caucus shall be held if requested for, by two-third of the members of the Caucus and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

(5) The quorum of the National Caucus shall be two-third of its membership.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Establishment and Composition

31. (1) There shall be a National Executive Committee of the Party which shall consist of:

(a) The National Chairman, who shall be the chairman;

(b) The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, if members of the party;

(c) Chairman and Secretary Board of Trustees;

(d) All other members of Board of Trustees who shall have no voting rights.

(e) The President of the Senate, the Deputy President of the Senate, the Senate Leader and Deputy Senate Leader, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, two Senators from each of the geo-political zones who are members of the party;

(f) The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the Leader and Deputy Leader, the Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip in the House of Representatives, three members from the House of Representatives from each geo-political zone, who are members of the party;

(g) All the State Governors, who are members of the party;

(h) The Deputy Chairman;

(i) The National Vice Chairmen;

(j) The National Secretary and the Deputy National Secretary;

(k) The National Treasurer and the Deputy National Treasurer;

(l) The National Financial Secretary and the Deputy National Financial Secretary;

(m) The National Organizing Secretary and the Deputy National Organizing Secretary;

(n) The National Publicity Secretary and the Deputy National Publicity Secretary.

(o) The National Legal Adviser and the Deputy National Legal Adviser.

(p) The National Auditor and the Deputy National Auditor.

(q) The National Woman Leader and the Deputy National Woman Leader.

(r) The National Youth Leader and the Deputy National Youth Leader;

(s) All the State Chairmen.

(t) Six ex-officio members, at least two of whom shall be women, elected from each of the six geo-political zones; and

(u). All former National Chairmen, Deputy National Chairmen, National Secretaries, Chairmen and Secretaries of Board of Trustees, who are still members of the Party.

Functions

(2) The National Executive Committee shall:

(a) Convene the National Convention and appoint a Convention Organizing Committee which shall circulate Convention information in advance and ensure that the concerns of the membership are reflected on the Agenda.

(b) Carry out the decisions and instructions of the National Convention.

(c) Supervise and direct the work of the party and all its organs including the National, Zonal, State and Local Government organs.

(d) Ensure that all the organs of the party function democratically and effectively.

(e) Where necessary, dissolve a State Executive Committee and appoint a Care-Taker Committee to run the Party until another Executive Committee is elected, provided that the period from the dissolution to the election of the new Executive Committee shall not exceed 3 months.

(f) Prepare reports and budgets for approval by the National Convention.

(g) Initiate policies and programmes for approval by the National Convention.

(h) Consider appeals and other matters referred to it by the zones or states of the Federation.

(i) Make rules for party discipline which shall be binding on all organs and members of the party.

(j) Subject to the provisions of this constitution, make party electoral regulations to govern the conduct of elections to all party offices at every level and regulate procedure for selecting the party candidates for elective offices;

(k) Ratify the conditions of service of the employees of the party in accordance with the Establishment Manual.

(l) Make standing orders for approval by the National Convention.

(m) Deal with any other matters referred to it by the National Convention or the Board of Trustees;

(n) Establish departments and set up ad-hoc or standing committees of the party.

(o) Manage and control all the assets and property of the party wherever they may be.

(p) In consultation with the Board of Trustees, appoint eminent party leaders to the position of member Emeritus and persons so appointed shall have the right to attend all the meetings of the organs of the party;

(q) Examine the actions, policies, programmes and legislations proposed by the federal or state governments produced by the party and take measures to ensure that they are in accordance with the principles, policies, programmes, objectives and manifesto of the party and make necessary recommendations or take any appropriate actions;

(r) Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the party;

(s) Approve the minimum rates of annual subscription and other levies payable by members of the party; and

(t) Confer such honours as may aid the realization of the objectives of the party.

Meetings

(4) The National Executive Committee shall meet at least once in every quarter at the instance of the National Party Chairman or at the request of two-third of its membership, who shall notify the Chairman at least seven days prior to the meeting; and an emergency meeting be summoned by the National Chairman having regard to all the circumstances of the agenda.

(5) The quorum of the National Executive committee shall be two-third of the membership drawn from at least two-third of the zones in the Federation, and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

PART IX

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Establishment and Composition

32. (1) There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Party (BOT) which shall consist of-

(a) All past and serving Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who held or hold the respective posts as members of the party and who are still members of the party;

(b) All Past and serving National Chairmen, Deputy National Chairmen and National Secretaries of the Party, who are still members of the party;

(c) All past and serving Presidents of the Senate and Speakers of the House of Representatives who are still members of the party;

(d) All founding members of the party as defined in this Constitution;

(e) Two women selected from each of the six geo-political zones;

(f) Three members, at least one of whom shall be a woman from each of the six geo-political zones; and

(g) Person(s) not exceeding six, who have contributed immensely to the growth of the party and found suitable by the Board.

Provided that membership of the Board of Trustee shall reflect the Federal Character of Nigeria.

ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

(2) The Board of Trustees shall:

(a) Elect a Chairman and a Secretary from its members who shall also be members of the National Executive Committee;

(b) Without prejudice to the provision of this Constitution, ensure that the person to be elected Chairman and Secretary respectively are of proven integrity and have contributed immensely to the growth of the Party.

(c) Ensure that the Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall, subject to Subscriptions (7) and (8) of this Section, serve a term of five years and no more.

Qualification for Membership

(3) A person shall qualify for membership into the Board of Trustees if he or she-

(a) Is a registered card carrying member of the Party for not less than four years consecutively;

(b) Has been paying his annual subscription fees as when due;

(c) Has attained the age of fifty years; and

(d) Is a person of integrity.

(4) Without prejudice to the provisions of Subscription (7) & (8) of this section, all members of the Board of Trustees specified in section (1) (e) – m (g) shall serve a term of five years and no more.

Functions

(5) The Board of Trustees shall subject to the provision of this constitution-,

(a) Ensure highest standards of morality in all the activities of the Party by acting as the conscience of the Party, with power to call to order any officer of the Party whose conduct falls below the norms;

(b) Ensure high morale of members of the party and that the party enjoys a good image before the Nigerian populace and is in good political health;

(c) Harmonize, co-ordinate, review and advice on policies, programmes and activities of the party at the national level;

(d) Co-ordinate the sourcing of party funds;

(e) Be vested with the assets of the Party and shall serve as custodians of such assets;

(f) Mediate in disputes between the Executive and Legislative arms of Government;

(g) Offer advice on party matters to the National Executive Committee of the party;

(h) Attend any meetings of any other organs of the party, except the National Caucus and the National Working Committee; and

(i) Undertake all other functions and activities as may be referred to it by the National Executive Committee or the National Convention.

(6) The Board of Trustees shall regulate its own proceedings and shall draw up a code of conduct for its members.

Removal and Resignation

(7) A member of the Board of Trustees shall-

(a) Be removed from office by a resolution of the National Convention on the recommendations of the National Executive Committee on grounds of infirmity or misconduct; or

(b) If he resigns his membership of the Board of Trustees by tendering a letter to that effect to the Chairman of the party.

(8) Without prejudice to the provisions of this constitution, a member of the Board of Trustees shall lose his membership of the Board if-

i. He is expelled from the party; or

ii. He is removed from office, appointive or elective office which made him automatic member of the Board of Trustees under this Constitution.

(9) Fresh selection shall be made to fill any vacancies in the Board of Trustees where applicable.

Meetings

(10) The Board of Trustees shall meet at the instance of the Chairman or at the request of half of the members of the Board or following a resolution of the Board or the National Executive Committee requesting for such a meeting.

(11) The quorum of the Board of Trustees shall be two-third of its members drawn from at least two-third of the States in the Federation. A simple majority shall pass any motion.

PART X

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Establishment and Composition

33. (1) There shall be a National Convention of the party which shall consist of-

(a) The National Chairman of the party, who shall be the Chairman of the Convention and other members of the National Executive Committee;

(b) The President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the party;

(c) Members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Party;

(d) State Governors and Deputy Governors, who are members of the party;

(e) All Gubernatorial candidates of the party; who shall be automatic delegates to the convention;

(f) Members of the State Houses of Assembly, who shall be automatic delegates to the Convention;

(g) the members of the Board of Trustees

(h)Members of the Zonal Working Committee and State Party Chairmen and Secretaries, including those of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

(j) Party chairmen of the Local Government Areas;

(k) One National delegate from each Local Government Area to be elected at the Local Government Area congress for the purpose;

(l) All elected Local Government Council Chairmen, who are members of the party;

(m) Former members of the National Working Committee who are still members of the Party; and

(n) Former Senate Presidents and Deputy Presidents, former Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives and other Principals Officers of the National Assembly who are still member of the Party.

Functions

(2) The National Convention shall be the supreme and controlling authority of the party within the limits prescribed in this Constitution and it shall be the principal representative, policy making and administering body of the party.

(3) Except in the exercise of the functions granted only to other bodies as specified in this Constitution or in the regulations made pursuant to the provisions of this Constitution, the National convention shall have supremacy in all matters pertaining to the party and all officers and organs of the party shall be bound in the exercise of their functions by the decisions of the National Convention.

(4) The policies of the party derived from the resolutions of the National Convention shall be amended or revoked only by a subsequent resolution of the National Convention.

(5) The National Convention shall have and exercise authority to:

(a) Formulate policies and programmes for the party;

(b) Elect or remove the National Officers of the party;

(c) Elect the Presidential candidate of the party;

(d) Demand and receive reports from the National Executive committee and from any other committees or organs of the party and take appropriate action on such reports;

(e) Appoint such committees, as it may deem necessary, desirable or expedient and assign to them such powers and functions as it may deem fit;

(f) Examine the actions taken or legislation proposed by any government under its control whether federal, state or local government council and ensure that they are in conformity with the policies and programmes of the party;

(g) At all elections, secure the return of as many party candidates as possible in a manner consistent with the laws of the land;

(h) Consider reports from the states and local government branches of the party and take such decisions and actions as may be necessary to protect, advance and consolidate the gains and interest of the party;

(i) Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the party;

(j) Exercise control and take disciplinary action against all officers and members of the party;

(k) Determine the type and membership of standing committees to be set up by the National Executive Committee;

(l) Review and amend the constitution of the party, from time to time, as the need arises and the power of the National Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution shall not be delegated;

(m) Delegate any of its powers, except the power to amend the Constitution, to the National Executive Committee or to any other organ of the party;

(n) Take such other actions as may aid or facilitate the realization of the objectives of the party;

(o) Appoint external Auditors to audit the party's accounts;

(p) Determine the minimum rate of annual subscription to be paid by members and the proportion of income from such subscription to be remitted to the National Secretariat of the party;

(q) Review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of the party; and

(r) Exercise such other powers and authority not inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution as shall aid or facilitate the realization of the objectives of the party.

Meetings

(6) The quorum of the National convention shall be two-third of its membership and a simple majority shall pass any motion.

(7) The National Convention shall meet every four years and shall alternate with the National Party Conference which shall hold bi-annually;

(8) The National Conference shall hold bi-annually for the purpose of reviewing the performance of the party in governance at all levels.

(9) The National Convention shall determine its own procedure in accordance with democratic principles;

(10) A Special National Convention may be convened at any time at the instance of the National Executive Committee or if requested for by two-third of all State Congresses and the Special National Convention shall meet to discuss only special matters which shall be specified in the notice summoning the Convention.

(11) Voting on key issues at the National Convention shall be by secret ballot.

CHAPTER V

POWERS AND FUCTIONS OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL OFFICERS

34. There shall be the National Officers of the Party, who shall be men and women of integrity and demonstrable competence and shall perform the functions assigned to them in their constitution.

THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

35. (1) There shall be a National Chairman who shall be the Chief Executive of the party, and his functions shall be to:

(a) Summon and preside over the meetings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, the National Caucus and the National Working Committee of the party;

(b) Provide firm and effective leadership and direct the activities of the party under the overall supervision of the National Executive Committee;

(c) Promote and defend the integrity, policies and programmes of the party and make pronouncements for and on behalf of the National Executive Committee outlining the policies, programmes and activities of the party; pronouncements for and on behalf of the National Executive Committee outlining the policies, programmes and activities of the Party;

(d) Assign specific functions to any member or officer of the party;

(e) Delegate his powers to the Deputy National Chairman;

(f) Cast votes if and when necessary.

(g) Present to the National Convention a comprehensive statement of the State of the party and the political situation generally;

(h) Ensure strict compliance with the provisions of this Constitution and do all such other things as shall promote the growth and welfare of the party;

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

(2) There shall be a Deputy National Chairman who shall come either from the Northern or the Southern part of the country, depending on the part of the country the National Chairman hails from.

(3) The Deputy National Chairman shall perform the following functions-

(a) Assist the National Chairman in the discharge of his duties;

(b) Deputise for the National Chairman in the latter's absence; and

(c) Performing such other party functions as may be assigned to him.

THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

36. (1) There shall be a National Secretary who shall be the Chief Administrative and Accounting Officer of the party, whose functions shall be to-

(a) Supervise the day-to-day activities of the party;

(b) Conduct or direct the conduct of the correspondences of the party and cause to be issued notices of meetings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, the National Caucus and the National Working Committee;

(c) Keep or cause to be kept all records of proceedings of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, the National Caucus and the National Working Committee, as well as other records of the party;

(d) Render a written annual report of the activities of the party to NEC, and National Convention;

(e) Ensure the implementation of the decisions and directives of the National Convention, National Executive Committee, National Caucus and the National Working Committee and ensure that all units of the party carry out their duties promptly and efficiently;

(f) Consult the National Chairman in the discharge of the duties of his or her office;

(g) Carry out any other duties as may be assigned to him or her, from time-to-time by the National Convention, National Caucus, National Executive Committee, National Working Committee and the National Chairman. and

(h) The National Secretary of the party shall be the custodian of the common seal of the party.

The Deputy National Secretary

(2) A Deputy National Secretary who shall assist the National Secretary in the discharge of his duties and shall act for him in his absence or wherever so directed.

THE NATIONAL TREASURER

(2) The National Treasurer who shall be an Accountant a track records of prudence whose functions shall be to:

(a) Receive and promptly pay into the party's accounts all monies received for and on behalf of the party and keep all cheque books and other banking documents of the party;

(b) Ensure prudent management of the party's funds;

(c) Ensure that all funds received by the party are paid into the party's accounts immediately and if for any reason that is not possible, the fund shall be paid within 48 hours after collection; and

(d) Prepare and submit a yearly statement of account and periodic reports to the National Executive Committee.

The Deputy National Treasurer

(2) There shall be a Deputy National Treasurer who shall assist the National Treasurer in the discharge of his duties and shall deputize for him in his absence.

THE NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

38. (1) There shall be a National Financial Secretary whose functions shall be to-

(a) Collect and keep records of all dues, levies, subscriptions and donations paid or made to the party;

(b) Prepare and submit proposals for raising funds for the party for the consideration of the National Executive Committee;

(c) Undertake strict supervision of budgeting, budgetary control and financial reporting;

(d) Protect the assets of the party and institute operating procedures through internal control; and

(e) establish and co-ordinate policies for the investment of funds to generate income for the party.

The Deputy National Financial Secretary

(2) There shall be a Deputy National Financial Secretary who shall assist the National Financial Secretary in the discharge of his duties, and deputise for him in his absence.

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZING SECRETARY

39.(1) There shall be a National Organizing Secretary whose functions shall be to:

(a) Initiate programmes for the general mobilization of the members of the party and the recruitment of new members;

(b) Appraise the problems of the party and proffer solutions to such problems;

(c) Harmonize all information and devise appropriate strategy for winning elections;

(d) Coordinate all field activities of the party;

(e) Organize seminars, workshops, rallies and campaign programmes for the attainment of the party's objectives; and

(f) Liaise with the National Woman and Youth Leaders for the harmonization of the programmes for the attainment of the party's success at all elections.

The Deputy National Organizing Secretary

(2) There shall be a Deputy National Organizing Secretary who shall deputize for the National Organizing Secretary in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputise for him in his absence

THE NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY

40.(1) There shall be a National Publicity Secretary whose functions shall be to:

(a) Co-ordinate all information and public relations of the party;

(b) Be the chief image maker of the party; and

(c) Cause to be publicized, the policies and programmes of the party in line with the aims and objectives of the party.

THE DEPUTY NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY.

(2) There shall be a Deputy National Publicity Secretary who shall deputize for the National Publicity Secretary in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputise for him in his absence.

THE NATIONAL AUDITOR

41.(1) There shall be a National Auditor of the party, who shall be an Accountant and whose functions shall be to-

(a) Audit the books of account of the party annually and report to the National Executive Committee;

(b) Present the audited account of the party to the National Convention; and

© Carry out any other functions as may be directed by the National Executive Committee.

The Deputy National Auditor

(2) There shall be a Deputy National Auditor who shall be an Accountant and who shall assist the National Auditor in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputise for him in his absence.

THE NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER

42.(1) There shall be a National Legal Adviser of the Party who shall be a lawyer of not less than 10 years post-call and whose functions shall be to-

(a) Advise the party on all legal matters;

(b) Conduct all litigation and prosecute and defend actions on behalf of the party, including its organs and officials in so far as the subject of the litigation affects the interest of the party; and

(c) Interpret the laws, regulations and Constitution of the party in the event of any ambiguities.

DEPUTY NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER

(2) There shall be a Deputy National Legal Adviser, who shall be a lawyer of not less than 10 years post call shall deputize for the National Legal Adviser in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputise for him in his absence.

THE NATIONAL WOMAN LEADER

43.(1) There shall be a National Woman Leader, who shall be responsible for:

(a) Mobilizing and organizing women;

(b) Initiating and implementing strategic programmes and policies aimed at endearing the party to Nigerian women; and

(c) Coordinating the activities of the Zonal and State Woman Leaders.

The Deputy National Woman Leader

(2) There shall be a Deputy National Woman Leader who shall assist the National Woman Leader in the discharge of his or her duties; and shall deputise for her or him in her or his absence.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH LEADER

44. (1) There shall be a National Youth Leader, whose functions shall be-

(a) Mobilizing the youth for the attainment of the objectives of the party;

(b) Initiating and implementing strategic programmes and policies aimed at endearing the party to the Nigerian youth; and

(c) Co-ordinating the activities of the Zonal and State Youth Leaders.

The Deputy National Youth Leader

(2) There shall be a Deputy National Youth Leader who shall deputize for the National Youth Leader in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall deputise for him in his absence.

CHAPTER VI

RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

45. (1) If a National Officer of the Party is removed or resigns from office, he shall immediately hand over to the National Secretary all records, files and other properties of the Party in his or her possession.

(2) In the case of the National Chairman, he shall hand over to the Deputy National chairman who shall, without prejudice to Section 45 (6) of this Constitution, act as the National Chairman pending the election of a replacement.

(3) In the case of National Secretary, he shall hand over to the Deputy National Secretary.

(4) This provision shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to other levels of the Party structure.

46. POWERS OF OFFICERS AT OTHER LEVELS

(1) Except where the provisions of this Constitution state otherwise, all other officers at the Zonal, State, Local Government Area and Ward levels shall, in relation to their respective functions, have the same powers as their corresponding National Officers.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Executive Committee at all levels shall have power to set up committees where necessary, desirable or expedient and shall assign to them such powers and functions as may be deemed appropriate.

(3) The Executive Committee at all levels shall, in the appointment or election of members of the Executive Committees at respective levels of the Party, observe and apply the principle of Federal Character.

47. TENURE OF OFFICE OF PARTY OFFICERS

(1) All National, Zonal, State, Local Government Area and Ward Officers of the Party shall hold office for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election for another term and no more.

(2) The election of National Officers shall be at the National Convention, while that of those at the lower levels shall be at the respective congresses.

(3) A vote of confidence may be moved on any member of the Executive Committee of the Party at any level at any National Convention or congress of the Party two years into the tenure of such member of the Executive Committee, and where such a vote fails to be carried the Executive Committee member shall be replaced at that National convention or congress, as the case may be. Provided that two months notice of such vote of confidence motion shall be given circulate it to the relevant chapters one month before the National Convention or Congress, as the case may be.

(4) A vote of confidence shall be deemed defeated if not passed by a simple majority of the members of the Party at the Convention or Congress sitting and voting.

(5) Any officer elected into the Executive Committee of the Party at any level may resign his or her office by giving thirty days notice in writing to the appropriate Executive Committee, except in the case of resignation for the purpose of vying for an elective office which shall be effective within the period stipulated in the guideline issued for such elective office by the State Executive Committee in respect of Local Government elections.

(6) Where a vacancy occurs in any of the offices of the Party, the Executive Committee at the appropriate level shall appoint another person from the area or zone where the officer originated from, pending the conduct of election to fill the vacancy.

PROHIBITION FROM HOLDING DUAL OFFICES

48. (1) Subject to the provisions of this constitution, any member holding any office in the party at any level shall be deemed to have resigned that office, if he or she assumes any of the following offices-

(a) President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(b) Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(c) Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or

(d) Federal Minister; or

(e) Secretary to the Government of the Federation; or

(f) Special Adviser or Special Assistant to the President or Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or

(g) Membership of the National and State Assemblies; or

(h) Ambassador; or

(i) Governor or Deputy Governor of a state; or

(j) Commissioner, Special Adviser or Special Assistant to the Governor or Deputy Governor of a State; or

(k) Chairman, Vice Chairman or Councillor of a Local Government Council; or

(l) Any full time employment or appointment in the public service of the federation, state or local government.

CHAPTER VII

MODE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE PARTY

49. (1) The National Convention, the Zonal, State, Local Government Area and Ward Congresses shall meet to elect the officers of the party at the various levels of the party structure as specified in this constitution except in the Federal Capital Territory where officers of the party shall be elected based on geo-political zones.

(2) Every registered member of the party who has satisfied the requirements for nomination and election under this Constitution, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria or any other law, rules or regulations in force shall be eligible to contest for any of the offices of the party.

(3) The guidelines for elections to any office of the party shall be approved by the National Executive Committee of the party in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

(4) No member of the party shall be qualified for nomination or election or appointment into any of the offices of the party, unless he or she has been a registered member for at least 18 months, and is of good financial standing in the party, except there is a waiver by the appropriate executive committee.

CHAPTER VIII

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION INTO PUBLIC OFFICES

50. (1) The National Executive Committee shall, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act (as amended) and this constitution, formulate guidelines and regulations for the nomination of candidates for election into public offices at all levels and shall be the final authority for resolving all disputes relating to the choice of candidates for the party for any election and for conveying to the Independent National Electoral Commission, or any other authority to whom it may concern, confirming the names or list of names of candidates for the party in any elective public office in the federation.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter IV of this Constitution, the National Executive Committee shall regulate the procedure for selecting the party's candidates for elective offices in the following manner prescribed below;

(3) In the conduct of primaries for the party's candidate for the post of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the primary shall be held at the National Convention of the party specially convened for that purpose;

(4) In the conduct of primaries for the party's candidate for the post of Governorship of a state, the primary shall be held at the State Congress of the party specially convened for that purpose;

(5) In the conduct of primaries for the party's candidate for the post of Senator, the primaries shall be held at Senatorial Constituency headquarters;

(6) In the conduct of primaries for the party's candidate for the post of member of the House of Representatives, the primaries shall be held at the constituency headquarters;

(7) In the conduct of primaries for the party's candidate for the post of Local Government Council Chairman and House of Assembly, the primaries shall be held at the local government constituency headquarters;

(8) Congress for the election of ward officers, councillorship candidates and the 3 delegates to Local Government Congress and State Congress, out of which at least one (1) shall be a woman, shall be by direct primaries in which all card carrying members of the party at ward level shall participate;

(9) There shall be a minimum of two year membership span for a member to be eligible to stand for election into any public office, unless the appropriate executive committee gives a waiver or rules to the contrary.

(10) In considering the waiver mentioned in Section 8(8)(b), of this constitution the following shall apply:

(a) For members aspiring for nomination for election to the post of Councillors, Local Government Council Chairman or membership, the deciding authority shall be the State Executive Committee; and

(b) For members aspiring for Party positions or nomination for State House of Assembly election, National Assembly, posts of Governors or Deputy Governors, President or Vice President, the deciding authority shall be the National Executive Committee, through the National Working Committee, provided that the process of clearance of the waiver starts from the ward levels.

(11) In respect of any decision under Section 10(a), any aggrieved party shall have recourse to appeal to the National Executive Committee, through the National Working Committee of the Party.

(12) There shall be a minimum of one year membership span for a member to be eligible to be considered for political appointment, but this is without prejudice to the discretion of the appropriate authority.

(13) Where the appropriate Committee rules to the contrary, the ruling must be approved by the immediate higher executive committee, save for National Executive Committee which is final authority.

(14) Candidates for party positions must possess a minimum of secondary school certificate or its equivalent as requisite qualification to be eligible to contest except waived by the Executive Committee concerned. The demand for literacy as a qualification should not be compulsory at the ward level.

CHAPTER IX

FUNDING

51. (1) There shall be established and maintained for the party a fund into which shall be paid all:

(a) Subscription, fees, and levies from membership of the party;

(b) Proceeds from investments made by the party;

(c) Subventions and donations;

(d) Gifts and grants by individuals or groups of individuals as authorized by law;

(e) Loans approved by the National Executive Committee; and

(f) Such other moneys as may be lawfully received by the party.

(2) An annual membership subscription fee of N600 per annum, or such amount as the National Executive Committee, upon the recommendation of the National Working Committee, may, from time to time, approve shall be paid by all members.

(3) The fee shall be paid as and when due and endorsed on the membership card.

(4) For the purpose of strengthening the Party's finances, all elected and appointed Party men and women should be made to pay the following additional levies-

(a) Elected Public Officers in the legislature (at the three tiers of government): 5% of annual basic salary.

(b) Appointed public officers (at the three tiers of government) 5% of annual basic salary.

(c) Ambassadors: 5% of annual basic salary.

(d) Board Chairmen at Federal level: 5% of their basic allowances or remuneration.

(5) The various individuals and friends of the Party that enjoy patronage from the Party at National, State and Local Government levels shall be encouraged to make donations annually to the Party, and these must be consistent with any law in operation at the time of the donation.

(6) Money generated from the sale of nomination forms shall form part of the Party's finances.

(7) The Party shall hold a National Chairman's Annual Fund Raising Dinner at which friends and members of the Party will be charged, in a manner to be recommended by the National Finance Committee of the Party and approved by the National Working Committee, to raise fund for the Party.

NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Establishment and Composition

52. (1) There shall be established for the Party, a National Finance Committee (NFC) to consist of the following, that is:

(a) A Chairman, who shall be a Party member of repute and integrity;

(b) 2 members drawn from each of the 6 geopolitical zones of the country;

(c) The National Treasurer of the Party,

(d) Financial Secretary of the Party,

(e) National Auditor of the Party,

(f) 2 Representatives of the National Assembly,

(2) The Deputy National Financial Secretary shall serve as the Secretary of the Committee.

(3) Excepts for the ex-officio members of the Committee, the Chairman and other members are to be appointed by the National Working Committee subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

Functions

(4) the NFC shall be responsible for-

(a) Organizing a National Chairman's Annual Fund Raising Dinner, at which participants (i.e. friends and members of the Party) shall pay for the dinner according to the sitting arrangements, among other criteria to be worked out by the Committee charged with the organization of such dinner.

(b) Embarking on other fund raising activities and solicitations for party, provided that such activities and solicitations must be in conformity with the extant laws;

(c) Ensuring the broadening and sustainability of the Party's revenue base, including, subject to the provisions of this constitution, investment of the party funds in to long term viable ventures such as government securities, blue-chip companies and real estates; and

(d) Establishing any business ventures that do not violate the provisions of any sections of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Electoral Act and this constitution.

Provided that there shall be a State Finance Committee, which shall be constituted along the lines of the National Finance Committee and to perform like functions

BORROWING POWER

53. (1) The Party may, with the consent of or in accordance with any general authority given by the National Executive Committee, borrow, by

way of loan or overdraft, from any source, any money required by the party to meet its obligations and functions under this Constitution.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this constitution and the conditions of any trust in respect of any property, the party may invest all or any of its funds with the consent or general authority of the National Executive Committee.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PARTY FINANCES

54. (1) For the purpose of ensuring transparency and accountability and transparency in the management of finances of the party, The National Executive Committee shall design Standard Financial regulations to govern the management of party's finances at all levels.

(2) At the National level, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria if a member of the party shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution as affects membership dues expected from Federal Political appointees, while the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as the Leaders of the National Assembly, if members of the party, shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this Constitution by members of the party in the National Assembly.

(3) At the State level, the Governor of the State, if a member of the party shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution as relates to membership dues in respect of all State political appointees, while the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, if a member of the party or the leader of the party in the State House of Assembly shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this Constitution by members of the party in the State House of Assembly.

(4) At the local government level, the Chairman of the local government council, if a member of the party, shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this constitution as relates to membership dues in respect of all local government council political appointees, while the leader of the Local Government Legislative House shall ensure compliance with the

provisions of this constitution by members of the party in the local government legislative house.

BANK ACCOUNTS

55.(1) The party shall maintain a Bank Account at the city or town where its headquarters is situated and where bank facilities are not available, the services of the bank nearest to the city or town shall be utilized.

(2) The Executive Committee of the party at any level shall decide the banks to be used in keeping the account.

(3) The authorized signatories to the bank account and other financial transactions shall be the following officers, as the case may be:

(a) The National Chairman or his or her counterparts at Zonal, State, Local Government and Ward levels;

(b) The National Secretary or his or her counterparts at Zonal, State, local government and ward levels;

(c) The National Treasurer or his or her counterpart as zonal, state, local government and ward levels; and Provided that withdrawals from or debit instructions on the account shall be valid only if authorized by the National Chairman or his counterpart at the other levels, and any of the two signatories, that is, the National Secretary or Treasurer of the party at the appropriate levels.

AUDIT OF PARTY ACCOUNTS

56. (1) The National Executive Committee of the Party shall appoint a competent firm of accountants to audit the accounts of the party annually and present the report of the audited accounts at the National Convention.

(2) The Zonal, State and the Local Government Executive Committees shall, similarly, appoint a competent firm of Accountants to audit the

accounts of the party annually and present the report of the audited accounts at their respective congresses.

CHAPTER X

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

57. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, there shall be a Disciplinary Committee of the Party at every level consisting of seven members with proven integrity, one of whom shall have a legal background.

(2) The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the appropriate Executive Committee of the Party.

(3) The Working Committee, at any level of the Party, and the Executive Committee (at the Ward Level) may, after preliminary hearings, suspend a member from the Party for a period not exceeding one month, during which period the member so suspended shall lose his right of contest any election, and shall be referred to the appropriate Disciplinary Committee.

(4) Where an allegation is made against a member of the Party, the Disciplinary Committee shall inform the member in writing of the allegations made against him and the place and time of hearing the case against him or her.

(5) A member who appears before a Disciplinary Committee shall be given opportunity to present his case orally or in writing either in person or through a counsel of his choice and shall be allowed to call witnesses.

(6) Any decision taken against a member who has not been informed of the charges against him or has not been given any opportunity of defending himself shall be null and void.

(7) Notwithstanding any other provision relating to discipline, no Executive Committee at any level, except the National Executive Committee, shall entertain any question of discipline as may relate or

concern a member of the National Executive Committee, Deputy Governors or members of the National Assembly.

Provided that nothing in this Constitution shall preclude or invalidate any complaint submitted through the National Working Committee to the National Executive Committee concerning any person whatsoever.

OFFENCES AND SANCTIONS

Offences

58.(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Party shall have power to discipline any member who:

(a) Commits any breach of the Party's Constitution, and or Manifesto;

(b) Says or does anything likely to bring the party into disrepute, hatred or contempt;

(c) Disobeys or neglects to carry out lawful directives of the party or any organ or officer of the party;

(d) Engages in dishonest practices, defrauds the party, its members or officials;

(e) Is persistently absent from meetings or other official duties;

(f) Engages in anti-party activities;

(g) Engages in disorderly conduct at meetings or rallies or at any party function;

(h) Engages in any conduct likely to cause disaffection among members of the party or is likely to disrupt the peaceful, lawful and efficient conduct of the business of the party;

(i) Engages in unauthorized publicity of disputes within the party or creates a parallel party organ at any level;

(j) Promotes factions or belongs to any group under the guise of the party and by whatever name called, not being one provided for in this constitution;

(k) Organizes, retains, trains, equips or encourages the organization, retention, training, equipping of any member or group of members for the purpose of employing violence or coercion or any form of intimidation whatsoever;

(l) Resorts to court action or litigation on any disputes or on any matter whatsoever concerning rights, obligations and duties of any member of the party without first availing himself or herself of the remedies provided by the party under this constitution; or

(m) Fails, refuses or neglects to treat a petition, complaints or appeal timeously.

SANCTIONS

59.(1) Any member of the Party who commits any of the offences listed in Section 56 (1) of this Constitution shall be liable to any or a combination of the following penalties-

(a) Reprimand

(b) Censure

(c) Fine

(d) Suspension with a fine;

(e) Debarment from holding any Party office;

(f) Removal from office

(g) Expulsion from the Party

(2) Subject to the provisions of Chapter XIV of this Constitution, the Executive Committee, at any level of the Party, shall have power to decide on any of the disciplinary measures to be taken against any member at that level.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution relating to discipline, no Executive Committee at any level except the National Executive Committee shall entertain any question of discipline as may relate or concern a member of the National Executive Committee, President, Vice President, Governors, Deputy Governors, Ministers, Ambassadors, Special Advisers or member of any of the legislative houses.

(4) The appropriate Executive Committee shall have the power to initiate and take necessary disciplinary action against other categories of Executive Committee members, public Office Holders and other members of the Party.

(5) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the National Executive Committee shall have power to expel any member of the Party for acts of indiscipline or misconduct which brings, or is likely to bring, the Party into disrepute.

Remedies

60. (1)If any member of the party is aggrieved, he shall report to the appropriate authority.

(2) If he or she is not satisfied, an appeal shall lie with the next higher party authority.

(3) All appeals must be dealt with timely, expeditiously; in any event not later than 2 weeks after the filing of the appeal.

(4) The National Executive Committee of the Party shall be the final arbiter, provided that failure, refusal or neglect to treat a report, petition, complaint or appeal on the part of the arbiter shall, in itself, constitute an offence.

APPEAL

61.(1) Any member of the Party who is aggrieved by a decision taken against him by any of the organs or officers of the Party shall have the

right of appeal to the immediate higher organ of the Party within fourteen days of the decision.

(2) An appeal shall be determined by the appropriate appeal body within twenty-one days from the date of the receipt of the notice of appeal by the appropriate Executive Committee.

CHAPTER XI

PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE (PDI)

62. (1) There shall be an institution to be known as the People Democratic Institute (PDI) which shall be the intellectual and resource department of the Peoples Democratic Party.

(2) The PDI shall have a Board of Governors whose chairman and membership shall exceed fifteen persons, to be appointed by the National Executive Committee of the Party and whose responsibility shall be the formulation of policy and general administration of the Institute.

(3) The Deputy National Chairman of the Party shall be the Chairman of the Board, with the National Secretary and the Director General of the Institute as members, and there shall be two members from each of the geo-political zones of the country.

(4) The Director General shall be responsible for the day to day running of the Institute, and is answerable to the Board on all matters.

(5) The Director General shall have a tenure of five years renewable for another term and no more.

(6) The Institute shall be responsible for organizing seminars and workshops for training in governance, Party organization and administration of the Party and shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the National Working Committee.

(7) The activities of the Institute shall be in accordance with its Charter and the provisions of this Constitution as regards the financial regulation of the Party shall apply to it.

CHAPTER XII

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY

63. (1) The party shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and can sue or be sued in its corporate name with power to acquire, hold and alienate property, enter into agreements and to do all things necessary to carry out its aims and objectives and defend its members, property and reputation.

(2) Only National Officers of the party shall have the authority to create any legal relationship binding on the party.

COMMON SEAL

64. There shall be a common seal of the party, which shall be in the custody of the National Secretary of the party.

OATH OF OFFICE

65. Any person elected or appointed into any office of the party shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as provided in Schedule I to this Constitution, in the language that he or she understands and before a commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public.

AMENDMENTS

66. (1)The party shall have the power to amend this constitution, save that no amendment of the constitution shall be valid unless made by a motion

passed by two-third majority of members present and voting at the National Convention.

(2) The Notice of the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be given to the National Secretary, at least two months before the date of the National Convention and the notice, which shall be in writing, shall contain a clear statement of the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment.

(3) The Secretary upon receipt of the notice shall cause it to be circulated to the State branches of the party for publication at least one month before the date of the National Convention.

INTERPRETATION

67.(1) Any question as to the meaning of any section of this constitution or the Schedule hereto shall be referred to the National Executive Committee whose interpretation of the same shall be final.

27.2 In this constitution:

(a) "Founding Members" mean members of G34;

(b) "Funds" include valuable properties;

(c) "He" or "His" shall include the female gender;

(d) "The Party" means PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY;

(e) "month" means calendar month;

(f) "Constitution" means Constitution of the Peoples Democratic Party.

(g) where computation of any figure in this Constitution results in a fraction, the figure obtained shall be approximated to the nearest whole number;

(h) "Youth" means a member between the ages of 18 and 40 years.

(i) "Congress" a large formal meeting or series of meetings where representatives from different party levels discuss ideas, make decisions, pass resolutions and conduct election;

(j) "National Convention" - The largest meeting of PDP at National level which is the highest authority of the party where decisions are ratified and Presidential candidates and National Officers are elected;

(k) "Delegates" - Are elected or nominated representatives of the party at any level of the structure of the party;

(l) "National" - This refers to Federal level as contained in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.

(m) "Zonal" - This refers to each of the geo-political entities viz North East, North Central, North West, South East, South West, South South.

(n) "State" - This refers to geographical entity as defined in the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.

(o) "Local Government Area" - This refers to the Local Government Area as defined by S.7 and particularly schedule 2 of the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.

(p) "Ward" - This refer to the area delineation of the Local Government Area by the Independent National Electoral Commission.

(q) "Direct Primaries" – this refers to a Party Executive Congress to be held in each Ward and all registered and financial members of the Party to participate in electing a candidate of the Party for election into public office.

SCHEDULE I

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, ...do solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Peoples Democratic Party and the Federal Republic of Nigeria and that I will

preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Peoples Democratic Party and of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. So help me God.

SCHEDULES II

OATH OF OFFICE

I,.....do solemnly swear/affirm that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY, I shall discharge my duties to the best of my ability, faithfully and in accordance with the constitution of the party and always in the interest of the integrity, solidarity, advancement, well-being and prosperity of the party and the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that I will strive to pursue, enhance and achieve the aims and objectives of the party as contained in its Constitution and Manifesto; that I shall not allow my personal interest to influence my official decision; that in all circumstances I shall do right to all the members of the party and to all manner of people, according to law without fear or favour, affection or ill-will; that I shall not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person any manner which shall be brought to my attention or which shall become known to me as an officer of the party, except as may be required for the due discharge of my duties and that I shall devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of Nigeria. So help me God.

SCHEDULE III

PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS

1. Language to be used at meetings

The proceedings of the meetings of the party at all levels shall be in the English language or any Nigerian language understood by a majority of members of the party at respective levels;

2. All the meetings of the party shall be chaired by the Chairman or in his or her absence, the Deputy Chairman at the relevant level and in the event of the absence of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, members

present shall elect a member from amongst themselves to preside over the meeting.

3. The rules and regulations governing the conduct of any meetings of the party shall be as approved, from time to time, by the National Executive Committee of the party.

SCHEDULE IV

STAFF RULES

(1) Employees of the party shall be subject to the direct control and discipline of the National, Zonal, State, Local Government area and ward secretariat of the party and appeals on matters of the discipline and routine administration matters shall lie with the Secretary at the various levels, in compliance with the establishment manual.

All employees of the party shall be bound by the provisions of this constitution, the rules and regulations of the party and the decisions of the National Executive Committee and other authorized organs of the party.

(2) A person who seeks and obtains employment in the party shall be deemed to be a member of the party.

(3) Any employee of the party who acts in a manner likely to bring contempt or ridicule to the party or its officers or take part in subversive activities against the party or its officers shall, if found guilty, be immediately relieved of his or her post.

(4) Erring employees shall be afforded ample opportunity to defend themselves before disciplinary action is taken against them.

(5) No employee of the party shall seek nomination to enable him or her contest any election, unless he or she resigns his or her appointment one month to the date of the election.

(6) The remuneration and other conditions of service of employees of the party shall be determined as follows:

(a) For employees of the party at the National level, the National Convention on the recommendation of the National Executive Committee;

(b) For employees of the party at the State level, by the State Congress on the recommendation of the State Executive Committee;

(c) For employees of the party at the ward level, by the Local Government Area Congress on the recommendation of the Local Government Executive Committees.

D E C L A R A T I O N

We hereby declare that this Constitution of the Peoples Democratic Party was amended and ratified by the National Convention of the Party held in Abuja on the 24th day of March, 2012.

Dated this 26th day of March, 2012

Alh. Dr. Bamanga Tukur — National Chairman

Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola — National Secretary

PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Power to the People…

National Secretariat: Wadata Plaza, Plot 1970, Michael Okpara Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.
Tel: 09-5232569, 5233429, Fax 09-5231299